

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 644
By Davidson

A RESOLUTION to honor the City of Greenbrier, Tennessee on
the occasion of its centennial celebration.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to
join with the citizens of the towns and cities of our State as they celebrate historic events in the
lives of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Greenbrier, in Robertson County, are most assuredly
deserving of special recognition as they prepare to celebrate the founding of their community;
and

WHEREAS, in 1903 Greenbrier was incorporated under General Act, as recorded in the
Charter Book, Register's Office of Robertson County; Mr. Charlie Webster was elected Mayor,
along with a Board of Aldermen, and the first ordinances were enacted and the town was
divided into three wards; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 1937, the General Assembly reincorporated Greenbrier through
the enactment of Chapter 436 of the Private Acts of 1937; and

WHEREAS, the community's beginnings were much earlier, when Edward Saunders Cheatham purchased 3,150 acres comprised of several tracts in the Twelfth Civil District of Robertson County in 1860; he established a sawmill and related businesses, resulting in the area becoming known as "Cheatham's Station"; and

WHEREAS, the community retained that name until the Louisville to Nashville (L&N) railroad was completed, and the community became known as "Greenbrier", possibly for the green briers near the railroad right-of-way, or, alternatively, for an old African-American man nicknamed "Greenbrier", who worked for years at the local whiskey distillery; and

WHEREAS, Greenbrier occupied the highest point on the railroad between Nashville and St. Louis, located just twenty-two miles north of the State Capitol and seven miles south of the county seat of Springfield; the location on the Highland Rim and the resulting cooler summer temperatures attracted visitors from the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its salubrious climate, completion of the L&N Railroad from Edgefield in east Nashville to Springfield in 1959 also contributed to the success of the town; the railroad continued through Robertson County and eventually joined at Guthrie, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, J.C. Stark purchased properties that included the location of Greenbrier in an estate sale in 1874, after business failures and consequences related to the Civil War forced Cheatham to sell his properties; and

WHEREAS, Charles Nelson purchased lands in Greenbrier in 1870 and established a distillery that produced award-winning whiskey and spirits until 1909; other branch industries of the Nelson Distillery, the manufacture of whiskey barrels and the growth of corn for the production of sour mash, contributed to the community's prosperity; and

WHEREAS, in 1892, William H. Simmons opened a tobacco prizing house, followed by the opening of another tobacco warehouse in 1895 by Granville and John B. Sprouse; other important early businesses included the Worsham Hotel, J.T. Hinkle Grocery Store, T.M. Williams Grocery Store, Pinson Brothers General Merchandise, Bank of Greenbrier, Farmers

and Merchants Bank, R.G. Gleaves Undertakers, Woodall and Wilkerson Undertakers, and Austin and Bell Funeral Home; and

WHEREAS, education of children was important to Greenbrier's citizens, and following the establishment of Ebenezer School in 1879, the town was home to Central Tennessee Normal School, Pinson School, Hackney School, Gideon School, Kelly Willis School, Greenbrier Elementary School and Greenbrier High School; and

WHEREAS, Greenbrier's devout population founded Ebenezer Baptist Church in 1874, Greenbrier Methodist Church around 1886, First Baptist Church in 1885, Greenbrier Church of Christ around 1889, and St. John's Tabernacle Church; and

WHEREAS, electric power became available in Greenbrier in 1921, and in 1924, the modern U.S. Highway 41 was constructed through the center of Greenbrier, paralleling the railroad, further connecting the community to the world at large; and

WHEREAS, the Greenbrier Historical Society was founded in 1997 to preserve the history and culture of the City of Greenbrier and its environs; and their established goals will greatly contribute to the long-term attractiveness of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor this dynamic municipality and its citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in the history of their community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the citizens and elected officials of the City of Greenbrier as they celebrate the centennial of their incorporation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer our heartiest wishes for prosperity and success in the next and subsequent centuries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

